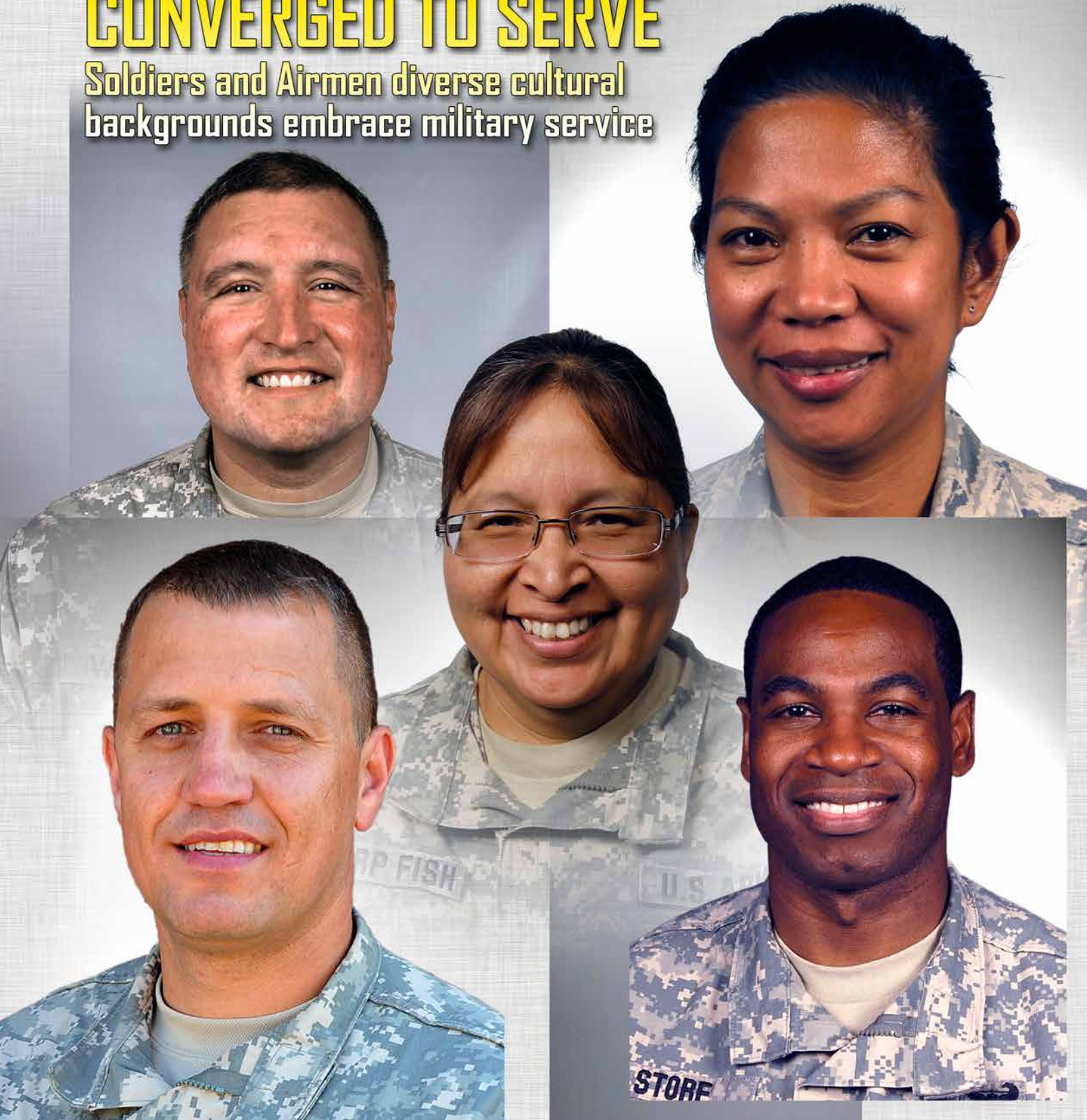


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MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH DAKOTA ARMY AND AIR NATIONAL GUARD • FALL 2015

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Magazine of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard



FEATURES

- 12 Guard Members embrace military service
- 16 SDNG hosts 31st annual Golden Coyote
- 18 Golden Rally brings Army and Air Guard together
- 20 Army Air Guard conduct riot control training

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 ALPHA CORNER
- 4 NEWS BRIEFS
- 6 Deployment ceremony held for 155th Engineer Company
- 7 Members of 114th FSS deploy to southwest Asia
- 7 Boltjes to command award winning 114th MXS
- 8 Cooks compete in regional food service competition
- 9 Service members attend exercise in Scotland
- 10 Soldiers test leadership skills, become future Army officers
- 10 Soldiers train on artillery rocket systems
- 11 Soldiers train to become motor transport operators
- 12 DIVERSITY FOCUS
- 22 FAMILY FOCUS
- 23 CHAPLAIN'S CORNER
- 24 SNAPSHOTS



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On the Cover - Service members of the SDNG share their cultural background stories and how they embrace their military service. (Photo illustration by Maj. Anthony Deiss.)





MESSAGE FROM THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

As I am typing these words, the Black Hills is buzzing from the thousands of motorcycles that are here for the 75th Sturgis Rally. About 750 S.D. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are conducting their annual training here at the same time the Rally is being held in the event that a civil emergency occurs that

overwhelms the public safety personnel supporting the event.

For the third year in a row, Camp Rapid is hosting the Rally Operations Center which is manned by state and federal personnel whose agencies' missions have a nexus to the support requirements of the Sturgis Rally. This is headed up by the S.D. Office of Emergency Management which is a division of the S.D. Department of Public Safety. The S.D. National Guard assigns personnel to work in the Rally Operation Center, but in addition our joint staff mans our Joint Operation Center located in the Joint Force Headquarters building, so in the event we are needed we will be able to respond appropriately.

I want to thank Col. Marshall Michels and the 109th Regional Support Group for providing the command and control of the units assigned to participate in this "Golden Rally" exercise. The 109th's headquarters did a tremendous job tracking and supporting unit training as well as providing necessary administrative and logistical support.

I would like to congratulate the 114th Fighter Wing for recently being selected as the recipient of two prestigious national awards. At the National Guard Association of the United States conference in Nashville, Tennessee, they will be awarded the Distinguished Flying Unit Plaque and the John J. Pesch Flight Safety Trophy. This is a huge accomplishment coming on the heels of winning the Spaatz Trophy last year. Let's make sure we have room in our hangars for the F-35s!

Congratulations are also in order for Maj. Rebecca Trygstad, Sgt. 1st Class Carolyn Tedford and Sgt. Rachel Sirignano who were recipients of the Distinctive Woman of Service Award presented by the Girl Scouts-Dakota Horizons at their 21st Annual Women of Distinction Even conducted at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn. This award recognizes members or employees of the U.S. Armed Forces who strive to make the world a better place and have made contributions of time and support to their communities. I am extremely proud of these Soldiers for their past performance and excited about their potential in the years ahead.

I want to commend Black Hills Corporation of Rapid City on their selection as one of only 15 employers selected to receive the 2015 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is the Department of Defense's highest recognition given to employers for exceptional support of National Guard and Reserve employees. We owe so much to our many employers who support our members' participation in the Guard, and Black Hills Corporation has clearly gone the extra mile.

Congratulations are also in order for Col. Terry Ommen and the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade for successfully completing their XCTC exercise at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. The MEB and their subordinate units had a very challenging mission but they received many laudatory comments in their final evaluation. This exercise was a culmination of a highly successful tour for Col. Ommen prior to turning the command over to Col. Pat Pardy.

The prominent issues being dealt with on the national scene these days are largely budget-related, and primarily Army Guard versus Air Guard. Although many of us would like to see Congress legislate exemptions to the Budget Control Act for purposes of national defense, the reality is that most of the BCA imposed cuts are likely to be imposed at least for federal fiscal year 2016. Most folks expect that Congress will need to pass a continuing resolution to fund the DoD starting October 1, because it is unlikely that a compromise can be hammered out between the House and Senate versions of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act prior to the start of the new fiscal year.

Every year that passes without relief from the Budget Control Act results in more cuts to defense programs in general, which of course includes the National Guard. The biggest threat we face here in South Dakota is the loss of Army Guard force structure (i.e. units). Unless Congress provides relief, the Budget Control Act will shrink the Army Guard from its 2015 manning level of 350,000 to 342,000 in 2016; 335,000 in 2017; eventually collapsing to 315,000 in 2019. The best way we have to protect ourselves from these force structure cuts is to continue to meet or exceed our personnel strength goals. I want to commend both the Air and Army Guard for working so hard to achieve success in recruiting and retention this year. I know that it has been very challenging, but because everyone has worked so hard we are going to finish the year where we need to be. It appears that numerous states are going to fall short, and as a result they could face additional losses of units from their communities.

The South Dakota National Guard continues to lead the nation in many of the most important metrics used to measure success. I want to personally thank each of you for the role that you have played in making us an example of excellence. HOOAH!

Sincerely,

Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch
The Adjutant General

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GIRL SCOUTS HONOR SOLDIERS WITH DISTINCTIVE WOMAN OF SERVICE AWARD

RAPID CITY – Girl Scouts-Dakota Horizons honored a select group of women in recognition of their community leadership at their 21st Annual Women of Distinction Event, May 14, at the Rushmore Plaza Holiday Inn.

This year, three South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers were presented the Distinctive Women of Service Award.

The award, recognizing a member or employee of the U.S. Armed Forces who strives to make the world a better place and has made a contribution of time and support to the community, was presented to Sgt. 1st Class Carolyn Tedford, Sgt. Rachel Sirignano and Maj. Rebecca Trygstad.

Tedford, who has served in the military for the past 30 years, currently serves as a regional recruiter who enlists members of the community to serve in the Army National Guard as doctors,

dentists, attorneys and pastors.

Outside of the Guard, Tedford volunteers at the community plant share to help educate the public through the Pennington County Master Gardening program.

Sirignano has been a member of the SDARNG's Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment for the past 10 years as a flight medic and works full time as an emergency medical technician in Sturgis.

"I nominated Sgt. Sirignano because she is always willing to volunteer for extra tasks and responsibilities," said Sgt. Courtney Tyrrell, a fellow Guardsman. "As a flight medic and EMT, she has thrived in an environment that is still predominately male. She is an example that women can do the same job at the same level of excellence as their male counterparts."



Trygstad, has been a member of the SDARNG for the past 18 years and currently serves as the 139th Brigade Support Battalion administrative officer.

"I believe that it is important to be an active member of your community," said Trygstad. "We each have a role to play in making our community the best it can be whether that is volunteering at your local school district, being actively involved in local organizations, or just volunteering your time at a local event."

NATIONAL GUARD ASSISTS IN RESCUE OF INJURED MAN IN BADLANDS

RAPID CITY – The South Dakota National Guard assisted in the rescue of an injured Illinois man in Badlands National Park, July 11.

The SDNG responded to a call from Pennington County Emergency Management after a 26-year-old male fell near Sheep Mountain Table, south of Scenic. The hiker had fallen approximately 150 feet resulting in serious injuries.

The S.D. Office of Emergency Management requested dispatch of a SDNG HH-60 Black Hawk helicopter to provide aerial extraction of the patient from the area, which was inaccessible

by ground ambulance.

Local emergency first responders and a medic from Black Hills Life Flight were on the scene treating the man once the aircrew arrived. The aircrew and Lifeflight medic extracted the patient with a hoist and transported the injured man to Rapid City Regional Hospital.

Agencies responding to this incident included: Pennington County Sheriff's Office, Pennington County Search and Rescue, Badlands Search and Rescue, Badlands National Park Rangers, Oglala Sioux Tribal Law Enforcement Officers,



Rapid Valley Volunteer Fire Department, Interior Volunteer Fire Department, Rapid City Pennington County Emergency Management, Black Hills Life Flight and the South Dakota National Guard.

PARDY NAMED NEW 196TH MEB COMMANDER

SIOUX FALLS – Col. Patrick Pardy, of Howard, took command of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from Col. Terry Ommen during a ceremony, Aug. 8, at the Sioux Falls armory.

As the commander of the 196th, Pardy is responsible for the command and control of approximately 1,900 Soldiers, which is comprised of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion, 153rd Engineer Battalion, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion and its subordinate units. He will ensure that these

units are equipped, manned, trained and prepared to carry out their state and federal missions.

Pardy began his military service in 1986 enlisting as a combat engineer in Howard. He received his commission as a second lieutenant through the ROTC program at the University of South Dakota in December 1992. He has held command and staff positions within the 153rd Engineer Battalion, 109th Engineer Group, 196th MEB and Joint Force Headquarters. He commanded the 153rd from Sept. 2011 through

Aug. 2013.

Pardy has completed two tours of duty in Afghanistan, one with the 109th Group from 2004-2005 and a second tour with the 196th MEB from May 2010 to May 2011. In his civilian capacity, Pardy is a circuit court judge in South Dakota's Third Circuit Court in Madison.



RAGELS PROMOTED TO COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

WATERTOWN – Command Sgt. Maj. Lathe Ragels was promoted to command sergeant major in the South Dakota Army National Guard before assuming responsibility for the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, headquartered in Watertown.

Ragels replaces Command Sgt. Maj. Todd Rose as the battalion's command sergeant major and will now serve as the battalion commander's

advisor on all enlisted matters for the 147th.

"I am honored and humbled to have been given the awesome gift of taking responsibility of a battalion with such a rich and storied history as well as a bright and promising future," said Ragels. "The added benefit of being able to come home, in a sense, to the unit that I grew up in professionally is icing on the cake."

Ragels is now entrusted with the mentorship



and guidance of the nearly 400 Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery.

NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIER NAMED SD POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



PIERRE – A Pierre area South Dakota Army National Guard Soldier was recently recognized with an award for bravery.

Officer Richard Bauman of the Pierre Police Department was named officer of the year by the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary.

Bauman is a first lieutenant in the SDNARNG's 152nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

Pierre Police Chief Dave Panzer said that Bauman was honored for saving a young woman's life.

According to a KCCR radio interview with Panzer, in October 2014, Bauman was able to save a woman contemplating suicide from jumping off a bridge.

"Bauman was able to talk with the woman for quite some time and was able to get close enough to grab the female as she began to go over the

bridge," said Panzer.

Panzer added that it is quite an honor to receive the award and the department is very proud of Bauman.

"I feel pretty humbled knowing some of the other officers that have received this award prior to me," he said. "I'm very fortunate to work with an outstanding group of professionals. I don't do anything different than any other officers at the Pierre Police Department."

SD GUARD VOLUNTEERS DELIVER FOOD TO PEOPLE IN NEED

RAPID CITY – For the second year in a row, volunteer members of the South Dakota National Guard organized a food drive to support people in the communities in which they serve.

National Guard volunteers invited members of the community to participate in the food drive by dropping off non-perishable food items at one of the 22 armories located throughout the state from April – June.

More than 3,200 pounds of food was collected for the drive and distributed to social service organizations and food banks across the state.

"I think this food drive has been an awesome event because of how generous our Soldiers, Airmen and community members have been," said Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson SDNG fulltime support chaplain. "They have opened their hearts and filled collection bins full of food. We collected over 3,200 pounds compared to last year's 1,400 pounds."

The food drive, while not an official function of the National Guard, is a welcomed adjunct activity showcasing volunteers' commitment to serve some of South Dakota's most needy people.



SD NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS GIVE BACK TO COMMUNITY

SIOUX FALLS – Soldiers and families from the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 153rd Engineer Battalion volunteered their personal time to support the local Salvation Army sponsored "Brush Up Sioux Falls" paint-a-thon, June 17.

For the last 23 years, volunteers from the Sioux Empire have given their time to participate in this event.

The volunteers help elderly and disabled homeowners within the community by preparing and painting homes at no charge to the homeowner.

"This is an excellent opportunity to enable our Soldiers by getting involved within the community as well as lending a hand to those in need," said Maj. Jason Thomson, coordinator for the National Guard painting team.

This is the second year that the Soldiers of the 196th and the 153rd helped support the event by painting the home of a veteran and his family.

"I enjoy doing things for others while not receiving anything back in return," said Sgt. Mark Jensen, a Harrisburg native. "This project allows me to give back to the community and also support veterans who may be unable to take care of tasks that we take for granted."



DEPLOYED AIRMEN SUPPORT FELLOW GUARD MEMBER

SIOUX FALLS - Even when deployed thousands of miles from Joe Foss Field, volunteer members of the 114th Fighter Wing made an effort to support a fellow Guard member during a very difficult time.

On July 13, Master Sgt. Brian LeBrun, 114th Emergency Management technician, and his wife Kendra lost their daughter in a tragic car accident. This loss was also felt by LeBrun's brother, Tech. Sgt. Scott LeBrun, 114th Maintenance Group.

Scott was Madyson's godfather and was serving with the 114th Fighter Wing in South Korea at the time of the accident. Scott would travel back to South Dakota to attend his niece's funeral, but this came at great expense and his fellow Guard members wanted to do something to help.

Unit members voluntarily donated funds to help raise money to help pay for funeral expenses and to help get Scott home for the funeral. A grill-out, volleyball tournament and haircut challenge were held to help support donations. Several members stepped up to shave their heads too. In all, \$3,750 was raised.

To the grieving family, the outpour of support from their Guard family has been overwhelming.

"We would like to thank our families, friends, community, and the kindness and compassion of complete strangers after the loss of our daughter, Madyson Barbee," said LeBrun. "Thank you all."





Members of the 155th Engineer Company stand for roll call during the company's deployment ceremony at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center's Barnett Arena in Rapid City, Aug. 12. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)



Spc. Mike Stearns a member of the 155th Engineer Company interacts with his daughter during the company's deployment ceremony in Rapid City, Aug. 12. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)

DEPLOYMENT CEREMONY HELD FOR 155TH ENGINEER CO. SOLDIERS

RAPID CITY – A deployment ceremony was held for 161 Soldiers of the South Dakota Army National Guard's 155th Engineer Company in Rapid City, Aug. 12.

More than a thousand family members, friends and community supporters gathered at the Rushmore Plaza Civic Center's Barnett Arena to support their loved ones as the Rapid City and Wagner-based unit deploys to Kuwait for one year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Spartan Shield.

"The Soldiers of the 155th represent the best of South Dakota, and I am proud to be a part of this South Dakota National Guard unit," said Capt. David Dodson, 155th commander. "We've trained hard. We've learned to do whatever it takes to make us successful and we are prepared."

The 155th is a vertical engineer company capable of providing engineer support in the construction of base camps and facilities. The unit's mission will be to provide construction, repair and maintenance of vertical infrastructures and facilities on a base in Kuwait.

Speakers for the ceremony included Gov. Dennis Daugaard, U.S. Senators John Thune and Michael Rounds, Rapid City Mayor Steve Allender and Maj. Gen. Tim Reisch, SDNG adjutant general.

"I am thankful for the sacrifice our National Guard Soldiers are making," said Gov. Daugaard, while addressing the audience. "National

Guard Soldiers in South Dakota are the most capable, dependable, adaptable, courageous and determined people you will ever meet. They are the kind of people you want at your back, when you need someone at your back. I am grateful for your willingness to serve."

"I couldn't be prouder of this unit. I know how hard you trained to get yourselves ready," said Maj. Gen. Reisch, during the ceremony. "There is no doubt in my mind you are going to go over there and perform extremely well in the coming year. I look forward to the day next year when we welcome you back to South Dakota."

As a construction company, 155th has a wide variety of occupational specialties including carpentry, plumbing, electrical and masonry – services they have performed in a deployed environment before.

This is the second mobilization for the 155th, which deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Noble Eagle in 2002-2003.

The 155th was the first SDNG unit to deploy after 9/11 in support of the Global War on Terror, where they helped to build up base infrastructure in Kuwait in the lead up to the Iraq war.

While deployed, it's not only the Soldiers that make sacrifices – the families share the burden as well.

"As Soldiers, we volunteered and are proud to wear the uniform. But we don't wear it alone. Parents, spouses, brothers, sisters, children and

relatives ... your support for us is invaluable," said Dodson, while addressing the families. "What we experience, you experience and we thank you."

"The world is a dangerous place – full of rogue nations, rouge terrorists and evil things who do not like America," said Daugaard. "Our National Guard is part of the vanguard that defends us, and as Senator Thune put it – keeps the wolves from our door."

"We've trained as a team, we will fight as a team, we will build as a team and we will come home as a team," said Dodson. "Were are ready. Let's go!"



The 155th Engineer Company's Spc. Jordan Wendell feeds his 8-month-old baby while his son rests on his shoulder during the company's deployment ceremony, Aug. 12. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)

BOLTJES TO COMMAND AWARD WINNING 114TH MXS

By Staff Sgt. Luke Olson
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS – Lt. Col. Travis Boltjes assumed command of the 114th Maintenance Squadron in front of 114th Maintenance Group personnel and family members during a change of command ceremony at Joe Foss Field, July 12.

Col. Joel Degroot, 114th Maintenance Group commander, presided over the ceremony and passed the 114th MXS guidon from Lt. Col. Scott Rust, outgoing commander, to incoming commander Boltjes.

Boltjes joined the 114th Fighter Wing in 2002 and began flying in early 2005 netting more than 1,200 flying hours. He began a flying tour at the Pentagon in 2010 with the National Guard Bureau and for the past year and a half he's served on a non-flying tour as the executive officer to Lt. Gen. Joseph L. Lengyel, vice chief of the NGB.

Boltjes is on a tentative two-year schedule to learn command responsibilities.

"MXS is the largest squadron on this base with close to 250 Airmen," said Degroot. "Lt. Col. Boltjes will have his best exposure to understand what a fighter unit goes through day-to-day and month-to-month which will provide him with a great growth opportunity in his career."

Boltjes said that his goal is to keep the

squadron operating its current peak level.

"Scott Rust has done an awesome job as a leader and squadron commander here," said Boltjes. "It's a challenging scenario to pick up an organization that is seemingly at the best they can be. So a big priority I've set out is to learn as much as I can about how they do business and keep the squadron operating at this top level, and I'll do whatever I can do to help that."

Rust will be heading to the South Dakota National Guard Headquarters to fill the joint service position of director of plans and work as the maintenance liaison on the state staff.

Rust has left his legacy by winning several awards during his tenure, culminating with the 114th MXG taking home the top Red Flag 15-1 award, out of 22 units from around the country. Red Flag is a realistic combat training exercise involving the air, space and cyber forces of the U.S. and its allies.

"It's going to be an awesome challenge," said Boltjes. "I plan to use my past flying experience and knowledge I've gained working with maintenance personnel and couple that with my time spent at the NGB to hit the ground running."



Col. Joel Degroot, 114th Maintenance Group commander, passes the 114th Maintenance Squadron guidon to Lt. Col. Travis Boltjes, the incoming 114th MXS commander, during a change of command ceremony.

(Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)

MEMBERS OF THE 114TH FSS DEPLOY TO SOUTHWEST ASIA

By Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

SIoux FALLS – Tech. Sgt. Ed Johnson and Senior Airman Amber Spade, 114th Force Support Squadron services specialists, departed Joe Foss Field to deploy to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, July 21.

A request for relief from the National Guard Bureau was sent to Guard bases throughout the country and the 114th FSS personnel have responded and will provide six months of support to Ali Al Salem Air Base in Kuwait. The two will work in the dining facility, control rations, distribute water and oversee storage on the base.

"When I first enlisted in March of 2013 I expressed my desire to deploy as soon as possible," said Spade, native of Dell Rapids. "This opportunity came up and I jumped on it because the whole reason why I enlisted was to serve our country."

Spade expressed her excitement and nervousness for the experience but is thankful Johnson, native of Lake Benton, Minn., who will be on his 4th deployment, is going to accompany her. Johnson has been in the Air National Guard for more than 10 years.

The two have gone through a series of three pre-deployment briefings spanning from the initial notification until the morning of departure.



Briefings were provided by representatives of Family Readiness, Logistics Readiness, Intel, Medical, Travel Management Office, and the Yellow Ribbon program.

Capt. Elizabeth Ross, 114th Fighter Wing chief of intelligence, conducts a pre-deployment security brief with Tech. Sgt. Ed Johnson and Senior Airman Amber Spade, 114th Force Support Squadron services specialists. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



The Headquarters Company of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion's food section serves a five-star meal for the Phillip A. Connelly Excellence in Army Food Service Competition at Camp Ripley, Minnesota. (Photo by Spc. Paige Sewright)

COOKS COMPETE IN REGIONAL FOOD SERVICE COMPETITION

By Capt. Eli Carr
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

CAMP RIPLEY, Minn. – Many culinary cuisines have been crafted in the kitchen by top chefs, but only those with a refined skill and heart for service can prepare a five-star meal in a field environment.

However, that is exactly what Soldiers from the South Dakota Army National Guard's Headquarters Company of the 139th Brigade Support Battalion accomplished July 11 at Camp Ripley as part of the U.S. Army's Phillip A. Connelly Excellence in Army Food Service Competition.

The food service specialists of the Brookings-based 139th first proved their prowess as the best in South Dakota earlier this year, advancing to the regional portion of the annual competition.

They will now put their skills to the test against food service specialists from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming.

As part of the regional competition, 139th food service specialists prepared a gourmet meal from scratch in a combat kitchen to feed 90 Soldiers, who were part of a larger training operation from the SDARNG's 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

"Not only is it good training, but it recognizes them as a section and how well they work together," said Master Sgt. Steve Letscher, a competition inspector from the SDARNG's Joint Force Headquarters.

Each team earns a score on the evaluation of headcount operations, transportation and storage of rations, field food handling procedures, sanitation, and site layout in compliance with combat field environment procedures.

"It's a big morale booster for the team," said Spc. Michael Morgan, a competitor with HHC, 139th BSB. "The best part was showing the inspectors what we were made of. Winning at the regional level of the Connelly would give us major bragging rights."

If the 139th food service specialists win the regional level of competition, they will receive \$10,000 for their food service operations and move on to compete nationally.

"They did a great job," said Lt. Col. Jason Kettwig, 139th BSB commander. "The team performed extraordinarily well and I am proud of what they accomplished. They represented the 139th with honor."

SD SOLDIERS, AIRMEN IN SCOTLAND FOR EXERCISE SNOW LEOPARD

By 1st Lt. Jessica Bak
114th Fighter Wing

SCOTLAND – Members of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard traveled to Scotland from July 25 to Aug. 8 to take part in Exercise Snow Leopard, hosted by the 591 Field Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment, British Army Reserve.

The exercise consisted of regimental-led Community Engagement Construction Projects, which provided an opportunity for integration between the United States, the United Kingdom and surrounding communities.

Twenty-five members from the 114 Civil Engineer Squadron, 25 members from the 842nd Engineer Company and approximately 50 members from the 591 Field Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment, worked together between three different site locations during the course of the exercise.

The main work site, located near Glen Affric in the Highland region of Scotland, involved construction of three temporary crossing bridges, upgrading access tracks and replacing collapsed culverts in preparation for the 2015 World Orienteering Championships.

Troops were utilized at the second site located in the Kinguise Highland Wildlife Park to complete minor earthwork, construct a new bison management cell, construct an Amur leopard enclosure and construct a wildcat enclosure.

The third project site was located on the Orkney Islands, where U.S. and British forces worked with local contractors to help renovate the Kitchener memorial tower.

"I would hope that they gain an appreciation for our NATO allies and understand that they are Soldiers and Airmen just like we are, and we all have the same job to do," said Lt. Col. Brent Post, 114 Civil Engineer Squadron commander.

"I think culturally we are actually quite similar, which makes us quite strong allies because we get where each other is coming from the majority of the time," said Maj. Gareth Dawson, exercise director.

The South Dakota National Guard and U.K. forces have been conducting multi-national exercises together for several years. Members of the 519 Field Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment, recently attended Golden Coyote, an exercise held annually in Rapid City, South Dakota.



Members of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard pose alongside members of the 591 Field Squadron, 71 Engineer Regiment, British Army Reserve, after constructing a temporary bridge during Exercise Snow Leopard from July 25 to Aug. 8 in Scotland, United Kingdom.



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SOLDIERS TEST SKILLS TO BECOME FUTURE ARMY OFFICERS

By Pvt. Joshua Quandt
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



FORT MEADE – Nearly 80 Soldiers from 21 states developed their leadership skills in a fast-paced, eight-week program to commission as second lieutenants in the Army National Guard at Fort Meade during the months of June and July.

The South Dakota Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) conducts a consolidated Officer Candidate School program annually for Army National Guard Soldiers across the United States.

Throughout the course, the officer candidates face multiple tests in physical fitness, ruck marches up to 10 miles, leading a squad and platoon-size team tactically through combat scenarios, demonstrating an understanding of basic military skills and Army management systems.

"We teach the students basic leadership skills such as how to use troop leading procedures, how to give an operation order and how to make plans to move their unit in a combat mission," said Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, 1st Battalion commander.

About half of the candidates have no prior-service military experience, other than attending Basic Combat Training. Regardless of experience, the officer candidates leadership skills are tested the same throughout the course.

"We give them the opportunity to go through some stressful situations while we evaluate their ability to act under pressure and make decisions," said Bartunek.

One example where the student's leadership skills are tested is during the urban patrol lane where a Soldier leads a squad through a combat scenario at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City.

"We had to move through some rugged terrain, and we came up to an urban site and cleared rooms of potential insurgents," said Officer Candidate Jack Palmer, Oklahoma Army National Guard. "I really enjoy being in the field and the lane I was in charge of."

If the Soldiers accomplish all the tasks presented to them successfully, they will be pinned as second lieutenants to potentially manage a platoon of approximately 40 Soldiers.

"These Soldiers will leave the course with a toolbox of leadership skills to use when they manage and direct a platoon of their own," said Bartunek.

OCS is a great place to develop leadership skills, said Officer Candidate Justin Parks, Oklahoma Army National Guard.

"Being in a teamwork environment helps you to learn about yourself and others," said Parks. "Improving each other is what it's all about."

SOLDIERS TRAIN ON ARTILLERY ROCKET SYSTEMS

By Pvt. Joshua Quandt
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



Spcs. Taylor Wardowski, left, Jessica Soriteu and Jordan Williams, all from the Michigan Army National Guard, learn how to calibrate the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System. (Photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt)

RAPID CITY – Eighteen Soldiers from across the United States attended the Multiple Launch Rocket System Fire Direction Specialist course offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Rapid, July 11-Aug. 7.

The four-week course is one of six offered throughout the country where Soldiers learn how to collect and transmit data, operate communication systems and plot firing points for artillery rocket systems.

"We are teaching the Soldiers how to determine a firing solution, which includes choosing the best firing unit, which rocket or missile to use and what



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way to attack the enemy," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark Meriweather, course manager.

To graduate the course, Soldiers are trained and evaluated on the position and roles of the MLRS fire direction specialist, which include operating the Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System and the Advanced Field Artillery Tactical Data System.

"The 13P MOS (military occupational specialty) is pretty much the brains of the artillery," said Spc. Matthew Anderson, Michigan Army National Guard. "I'm re-classing from 13B, which is a cannon

crew member, and normally they send me all the information for the firing solution. So it's really interesting to see what they go through to send us that information."

The course is a combination of classroom instruction and practical exercises, where students can learn at their own pace in a group setting.

"The instructors are very professional and they teach us individually at our own pace," said Spc. Keith Mcallister, Michigan Army National Guard.

The students learning at the South Dakota RTI are applying these skills on both the M270A1

launcher and the High Mobility Rocket Artillery System.

"We are the only schoolhouse in the nation with both weapon systems available," said Meriweather. "We want our students to be able go back to their unit and to do their job proficiently."

Nine of the students are getting ready to be deployed to a theater of operations.

"I'm excited and proud that their state chose the South Dakota RTI to train them for a war time mission," said Meriweather.



U.S. Army officer candidates call in a situation report up to command during Officer Candidate School at West Camp Rapid July 16. (Photo by Pvt. Joshua Quandt)

M915 semi-truck with a 20 or 40-foot trailer, M1083 five-ton cargo truck and M1120 Load Handling System.

"I'm excited to drive the M915 tractor-trailer," said Sgt. Jason Waltman, student. "Currently, I'm a 12C which is a bridge crewmember with the 200th Engineer Company in Chamberlain. After this class, I will be able to transfer to the 1742nd Transportation Company in Sioux Falls and be closer to home."

SOLDIERS TRAIN TO BECOME MOTOR TRANSPORT OPERATORS

By Pvt. Joshua Quandt
129th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

RAPID CITY – Seven Soldiers from across the United States participated in a Motor Transport Operator course offered by the South Dakota Army National Guard's 2nd Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute) at Camp Rapid, July 11-Aug. 7.

The course is one of 23 offered throughout the United States where Soldiers learn basic driving skills on a variety of Army tactical vehicles.

To graduate from the course, Soldiers must complete coursework as well as hands-on training. They are trained and evaluated on driving on and off-road, driving with and without a trailer, convoy operations, maintenance, crew drills and proper loading and hauling.

"My leadership chose for me to come here because of a Soldier that came here last year and loved it," said Sgt. Apolonio Hernandez, Washington Army National Guard.

Motor transport operators are primarily responsible for supervising or operating wheeled vehicles to transport personnel and cargo.

"The class is a great experience," said Staff Sgt. Priscilla Harkin, instructor. "This is the first year we moved the class from Sioux Falls to Rapid City, utilizing the roads within the Black Hills gives these students multiple driving experiences."

Not only do the students have the opportunity to drive on various types of terrain, they also learn how to operate different pieces of equipment such as the

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GUARD MEMBERS

DIVERSE CULTURAL BACKGROUNDS EMBRACE MILITARY SERVICE

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The American culture is a gathering of various cultural and ethnic backgrounds and one place where it blends together is in the military.

Wearing the uniform of the United States Armed Forces brings a collaboration and unity among people of different backgrounds all working toward the goal of protecting freedom.

“Being a part of the Guard culture is one area where we can all say we are the same - regardless of race or gender,” said 1st Lt. Carstin Jerzak, SDNG state equal employment manager. “Members of the South Dakota National Guard are typically known for their mid-western work ethic passed from generation to generation. This work ethic comes from making a living in the mid-west and is

reflected in our families and in those serving in the Guard.”

A majority of SDNG members were born and raised in South Dakota, but not all. Many of them have a reason as to why they joined the military and many were influenced by their cultural upbringing. The following five individuals were inspired to serve in the SDNG due to heritage.

Army CW3 Clinton Store

Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Clinton Store is an African American, who grew up in the inner city of Chicago, he is currently a member of Joint Force Headquarters, in Rapid City.

"I had a pretty tough upbringing where I grew up," said Store. "Which has made me the person and Soldier that I am. I wouldn't be where I am without the struggles, the pain or the people who supported me."



"I knew there was more to life than just the things happening around me every day."

- Army CW3 Clinton Store

His military inspiration came from knowing that his grandfather served in World War II and he gained exposure to the military by attending ROTC classes during high school.

"I knew there was more to life than just the things happening around me every day," said Store. "My family supported my idea of joining the Army, but my environment did not. I actually had people tell me that the Army ain't no place for a black man. Which I thought was funny, because when I went to basic training all the drill sergeants were black."

The military is a community in which where you come from and what you look like is not important, rather how you perform is what distinguishes you, added Store.

"They give you a uniform and teach you how to be a Soldier," said Store. "I would have never imagined that I would be sitting here today as a chief warrant officer 3. They give you the tools to build a better you, but it's up to you to use them."

Store met his wife while serving on active duty who was from South Dakota, which ultimately lead him to the SDNG.

There are many differences between life on the south side of Chicago and life in South Dakota, said Store.

"People in South Dakota are generally very trusting and willing to engage in conversation with a stranger," said Store. "In my Chicago

neighborhoods, we limit interactions with people we don't know," said Store.

Store mentioned one interesting cultural difference is the way people worship in church.

"It's not just an hour long sermon," said Store. "It's an all-day event or whenever the shouting stops. There is nothing wrong with either way, it's just different."

Store said that he appreciates the boldness of his culture, shown in the way they express themselves.

"I think that the boldness of some people from my upbringing goes hand-in-hand with the military," said Store. "You have to be bold and brave to wear this uniform. You need to be willing to take some risks and stand up for what is right in difficult situations."

Air Force Master Sgt. Regina Staufer

Air Force Master Sgt. Regina Staufer is half Chinese, Filipino and Spanish, she is a member of 114th Fighter Wing and serves as a superintendent in the chapel operations section.

Staufer was



born in the Philippines and became an American citizen through the naturalization process at the age of 10. She comes from a military family, her grandfather and uncle are both retirees from the U.S. Navy.

"I'd like to continue to encourage and empower women of different ethnicities to dare to break from the norm."

- Air Force Master Sgt. Regina Staufer

"After high school graduation, my grandfather advised me to join the military or get a full-ride scholarship to college," said Staufer.

Staufer enlisted with the U.S. Air Force and reported to her first duty station at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Arizona.

It was at Davis-Monthan that she would meet her husband, from Watertown, whose ancestry is German.

Staufer spent four years as an active-duty Airman working in the field of security police until she decided to join the National Guard while her husband stayed active.

The Staufer family has traveled to various active-duty Air Force bases throughout their careers and now Ellsworth AFB is the last move for her husband's career.

Staufer has been able to keep her National Guard status going by transferring from state to state, wherever her husband is stationed.

"I'm thankful for this amazing opportunity to serve the greatest armed forces in the world," said Staufer. "As a female American of Asian-Pacific descent, this is a truly remarkable experience."

In her native country, being a female serving in the military is a rarity. Most females still pursue female orientated careers such nurses and teachers, said Staufer.

"I'd like to continue to encourage and empower women of different ethnicities to dare to break from the norm," said Staufer. "I view being in the military as being a guardian – we are the protector of our state, nation and its citizens. It's a humbling experience to be a servant of the people."

Serving in the military for the Staufer family is a tradition that is still going strong. Their son Andrew is currently serving in the 114th Maintenance Group.

Army Sgt. Alex Gigov

Army Sgt. Alex Gigov a member of the 155th Engineer Company, in Wagner, moved to South Dakota from Bulgaria in 2000 to attend college at Northern State University in Aberdeen.



"I've worked with a lot of different nationalities, which I believe will be helpful during my deployment."

- Army Sgt. Alex Gigov

"I moved here from the capital city of Bulgaria, Sofia, at the age of 24," said Gigov. "I grew up in a big city so I wanted to do something different. I applied to several colleges and I chose Northern because they were the most professional in communicating with me and the people were kind."

Gigov met his wife, Robin, during his time in college and it was her father who influenced him

to join the SDNG.

"My father-in-law, Bill Campbell, has been very inspirational to me in my decision to join the Guard," said Gigov. "He is a man of great integrity."

Campbell received the Purple Heart medal while serving in the Vietnam War and earned the rank of first sergeant before retiring from the SDNG with 22 years of service.

Enlisting in the SDNG is not the first time Gigov experienced the military.

"At the time in Bulgaria, once you reach the age of 18 you were required to join the military," said Gigov. "I served for 18 months."

After serving in the Bulgarian military, Gigov went on to experience a variety of jobs to include working on a cruise ship and a hotel in Israel.

"I've worked with a lot of different nationalities, which I believe will be helpful during my deployment," said Gigov.

Gigov is deployed with the 155th to Kuwait for one year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Spartan Shield.

"I have an understanding of how others perceive the world," said Gigov. "I believe it has helped me understand that we can't afford to be ignorant we have to respect each other."

Gigov said he is grateful to live in the United States of America.

"A lot of people ask me when was the last time I was home," said Gigov. "I say this morning, home is where the heart is. I don't have a lot of ties to Bulgaria anymore. South Dakota is my home."

Army Pfc. Eldena Sharp Fish



Army Pfc. Eldena Sharp Fish, a member of the 109th Regional Support Group, grew up on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation.

"I grew up in a two-room house," said Sharp

Fish. "We had no running water and we used an outhouse up until I was 18-years-old."

Sharp Fish's first language is Lakota. It wasn't until she went to speech class in kindergarten that she learned to speak English.

"Growing up, I spent a lot of time with my grandmother, who we called Uncici, said Sharp Fish. "Uncici had a lot to offer with her stories hugs and love. She helped me to learn and we

were taught life's lessons through storytelling. Our number one rule is to always listen to our elders."

"I think that being a part of the military means carrying on a tradition that my dad and brothers have carried."

- Army Pfc. Eldena Sharp Fish

Sharp Fish credits her family's history in the military for the reason she decided to leave the reservation and become a Soldier by the age of 35.

Sharp Fish comes from a long line of military veterans to include her dad who served during World War II.

"I remember being inspired to join the military when my brothers came home in their uniform looking sharp," said Sharp Fish. "They were fulfilling our family's legacy of serving. I wanted to be a part of that."

Sharp Fish said she is not alone in her decision to join the military. A lot of other families on the reservation have sons or daughters who are serving, which in their culture holds a lot of respect.

"I think that being a part of the military means carrying on a tradition that my dad and brothers have carried," said Sharp Fish.

Army Lt. Col. John Weber

Army Lt. Col. John Weber, a member of the Joint Force Headquarters, is half Puerto Rican and half German, but grew up with a Hawaiian influence.

"It was my great grandparents on my mom's side who migrated from Puerto Rico

to Hawaii around 1903 to work in the sugar cane and pineapple plantations," said Weber. "I wouldn't say my family is considered native Hawaiian, but my family has grown up with the Hawaiian culture."

My father met my mother while he was stationed in Hawaii serving in the Navy, said Weber.

"I was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, and then we moved to Ethan, South Dakota, when I was five-years-old," said Weber. "I like to cook food



inspired by Hawaii and Puerto Rico for my family. One of the foods we continue to cook that is different from what most people in South Dakota eat is octopus."

Weber's family has a tradition of serving in the military.

"My grandfather was one of 21 children which included 11 boys and 10 girls. All of the boys served in the military and they were very proud of their service," said Weber. "My grandfather served in World War II and retired from the Hawaii Army National Guard with over 30 years of service. The Puerto Rican culture has a lot of pride for those associated in the military and I wanted to carry that on by serving."

Weber says the military has come a long way in embracing everyone's different ethnicities.

"I can understand that it's important to be open and embrace everyone's background and understand they are still learning too."

- Army Lt. Col. John Weber

"If you look at my grandfather's military records, he could only check whether he was black or white," said Weber. "Even when I joined 29 years ago, there were only a few more options so I just identified myself with my white half. Today, I can check the Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander/White box with the ethnicity of Puerto Rico."

It's important today to not only accept but to truly understand more about others unique backgrounds, said Weber.

"I can understand that it's important to be open and embrace everyone's background and understand they are still learning too," said Weber. "I am still learning to this day about my own background. Everyone has a different perspective. I may view things differently because how my family views things coming from Hawaii versus someone here in South Dakota."

All five of these service members have a unique cultural upbringing, but the commonality between all them is their families strong tradition of serving and their love of protecting their local community, state and nation, said Jerzak.

"The foundation of diversity is about finding common ground and similarities as well as considering differences," said Jerzak. "It is easier to cross boundaries once we determine what we have in common instead of focusing on what we don't."



Eight Soldiers took the Oath of Office and commissioned as second lieutenants at Mount Rushmore National Park, Aug. 15. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)

EIGHT SOLDIERS COMMISSION AS SECOND LIEUTENANTS

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann
SDNG Public Affairs Office

RAPID CITY – Eight South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers took the Oath of Office and commissioned as second lieutenants during a ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park, Aug. 15.

The second lieutenants recently completed Officer Candidate School through the SDARNG's 1st Battalion, 196th Regiment (Regional Training Institute).

In order to commission as officers, these Soldiers endured a culmination of three intense phases of training, which has prepared these officer candidates for the next step in their military career.

"We give them the opportunity to go through some stressful situations while we evaluate their ability to act under pressure and make decisions," said Lt. Col. Deb Bartunek, 1-196th RTI commander.

Throughout the course, the officer candidates faced multiple tests in physical fitness, ruck marches up to 10 miles and their ability to lead squad and platoon-size teams tactically through combat scenarios.

"These Soldiers will leave the course with a toolbox of leadership skills to use when they manage and direct a platoon of their own," said Bartunek.

Brig. Gen. Kevin Griesse, assistant adjutant general of the SDARNG, guest speaker for the ceremony gave advice to the newly promoted officers.

"As you take on and assume the duties and responsibilities of a second lieutenant there will definitely be challenges but nothing you won't be able to overcome," said Griesse. "Trust in the training that you have received, keep in mind what you have learned, draw upon your experiences and make decisions."

The second lieutenants will now be assigned to units across the state and will attend Basic Officer

Leaders Course where they will continue to train in leadership, tactics and branch specific capabilities.

The following is the list of graduating officer candidates:

- 2nd Lt. Michael Crumb, 730th Area Support Medical Company
- 2nd Lt. Mitchell Harms, 1742nd Transportation Company
- 2nd Lt. Adam Holtquist, Forward Support Company, 153rd Engineer Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Jeromy Loken, Company A, 139th Brigade Support Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Jeffery Marshall, Forward Support Co., 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Madison Stephens, 235th Military Police Company
- 2nd Lt. Alex Toupal, Battery A, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion
- 2nd Lt. Brady Wolfe, 211th Engineer Company



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SDNG hosts 31st Annual



By 1st Lt. Chad Carlson
SDNG Public Affairs Office

The South Dakota National Guard hosted the 31st annual Golden Coyote training exercise in the Black Hills June 6-20, providing military units with relevant training opportunities in support of overseas contingency operations and homeland defense.

Created in 1984 by the South Dakota National Guard, with the cooperation of the National Forest Service and Custer State Park, this year's Golden Coyote training exercise allowed approximately 2,600 service members to conduct combat support and combat service support missions in a realistic training environment and provide valuable services to the public.

"Golden Coyote is one of the largest National Guard operated exercises in the country," said Maj Travis Eastman, Golden Coyote coordinator. "The South Dakota National Guard is proud of the 31-year history of this exercise, which continually draws units from across the country as well as units from allied nations year after year."

Service members from 35 units, representing 12 states and three foreign nations, participated in this

Spcs. Kyle Bryant, Adam North and Cody Brave Bird - Beck, with the South Dakota Army National Guard's 451st Engineer Detachment, move as a team to clear buildings while training on the urban patrol course during the Golden Coyote training exercise. (Photo by Pfc. Jennifer Lena)



Annual Golden Coyote



Left: Pfc. Brett Opsal, of the 842nd Engineer Company, installs culverts during the Golden Coyote training exercise at Orman Dam.
(Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Blaine Anderson)



year's exercise from multiple branches of military service - Army, Navy and Air Force – worked together to create an invaluable training experience.

Units conducted military operations, trained on their equipment and employed tactics, as well as completed various humanitarian missions and engineer projects that help improve the forest and infrastructure of many local communities.

Local residents received numerous benefits from the many engineer projects conducted during the exercise. Units transported timber to Native American communities that will use it as firewood, conducted building construction and resurfaced local roadways.

Additionally, units were able to participate in many warrior training tasks and battle drills such as combat patrols, urban combat operations, land navigation, first aid, casual evacuation. Golden Coyote also provided valuable opportunities for units to train on other skills needed for any future overseas deployment.

Top Left: A Soldier of 1st Battalion, 143rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), Texas Army National Guard, conducts airborne operations out of a C-17 on Camp Guernsey, Wyoming. (Photo by Sgt. Amber Stephens)

Bottom: Lt. Gen. Michael Tucker, commander of First Army, meets the NCO in charge of a bridge building project in Custer, while visiting the Golden Coyote training exercise. (Photo by Pfc. Jennifer Lena)



Members of the Illinois National Guard's 1344th and 1644th Transportation Companies stop to secure loads of timber being hauled to several Native American reservations in South Dakota. (Photo by Capt. Ulla Sorensen-Molgaard)



Left: Army Sgt. Maj. Chad Schmitz (top center) and other 109th Regional Support Group Soldiers oversee activities during the joint two week annual training at Camp Rapid in Rapid City, July 31. (Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland)

GOLDEN RALLY EXERCISE BRINGS ARMY, AIR GUARD TOGETHER

By Maj. Anthony Deiss
SDNG Public Affairs Office

More than 700 Soldiers and Airmen from the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard conducted joint training as part of their annual training period at Camp Rapid, July 24-Aug. 9.

Known as the Golden Rally exercise, nine units participated and trained on specific unit tasks and battle drills that support their war-time mission, as well as joint training opportunities between the Army and Air Guard service members that support domestic emergency response missions.

The Army and Air Guard units came together to train under a task force support structure, led by the 109th Regional Support Group of Rapid City. The 109th provided command and control for the task force and supported the units in training, logistics and administrative support.

"The goal of the 109th is to provide mission command to the Golden Rally task organization – facilitating the necessary training support and flexibility needed for increased unit readiness, while postured to effectively respond to any request for military support to civilian authorities," said Col. Marshall Michels, 109th commander. "This provides our staff the opportunity to develop, plan and coordinate training that supports our federal mission of units, while also training on vital missions that aid in supporting our state mission."

The training provided an opportunity to rehearse and practice joint operations and share best practices for tactics and procedures to responding to

a variety of domestic emergency response missions such as mass casualties, area patrols and security, and riot and crowd control.

Units also had the opportunity conduct warrior tasks and battle drills training that includes military operations in urban terrain, mounted and dismounted patrols, improvised explosive device identification, land navigation, a variety of training simulators, medical first aid, and more than a dozen other basic troop skills.

"We have received very positive comments from the Airmen and Soldiers indicating that this was some of the best training they received," said Michels.

Other units participating in the exercise included the Army Guard's 730th Area Support Medical Company, Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment, 235th Military Police Company, 730th Area Support Medical Company, 1-147th Field Artillery Battalion, 82nd Civil Support Team and the 81st Civil Support Team from the North Dakota National Guard.

Air Guard units participating included the 114th Medical Group and the 114th Security Forces Squadron.

The training exercise enhanced cooperation and team work between the Army and Air National Guard.

"The cooperation between the Army and Air Guard has been truly outstanding," said Michels. "From the beginning, everyone came together as a very strong team. They demonstrate the highest degree of professionalism and dedication, and I would not be more proud to lead this training opportunity."



Soldiers of the 235th Military Police Company attempt to gain intelligence on a weapons cache from a simulated informant during dismounted patrol training at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Aug. 3.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



Soldiers of the 235th Military Police Company transport a patient up a steep hill during dismounted patrol training at West Camp Rapid in Rapid City, Aug. 3.
(Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)

SOLDIERS, AIRMEN CONDUCT PATROL TRAINING

**By Tech. Sgt. Christopher Stewart and
Staff Sgt. Luke Olson**
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Joint patrol training was held at West Camp Rapid for the 114th Security Forces Squadron and the 235th Military Police Company, Aug. 3.

The units trained in four warrior training lanes which were designed to support squad and platoon-level tactics, techniques and procedures to include: urban patrol, mounted patrol/counter improvised explosive device, dismounted patrol, and escalation of force.

The aim of this training is to prepare service members for operations and tactics used in a combat theater.

"This type of training is more of a real world type of situation," said Army Staff Sgt. Jana Virtue, 235th Military Police squad leader. "Here they have to navigate rough terrain and react to simulated scenarios where they have to handle live fire and casualties in the field."

The objective of the dismounted patrol was to receive an operation order and conduct a presence patrol to possibly gain intelligence on a weapons cache on a mile long training route. This is a basic movement-to-contact battle drill that will evaluate the unit on tasks including: land navigation, react to enemy direct and indirect fire, communications, treating and transporting casualties in the field.

The mounted vehicle patrol/counter IED lane is a convoy lane that emphasizes IEDs, or improvised explosive devices, while evaluating the unit on basic tasks similar to the dismounted patrol. The

urban patrol evaluates the units on the same basic tasks as well but they operate in a structured urban environment put in place at West Camp Rapid.

"I think it provides valuable hands-on experience," said Virtue. "It gives the troops a good approximation of what could happen in the real world when you start getting shot at and your troops start going down."

In addition to patrol training, the service members also conducted escalation of force training. EoF is the application of non-lethal capabilities that enable an individual to control a situation and execute a variety of missions while minimizing risk of significant injury and collateral damage. During this instruction, Soldiers and Airmen were trained on techniques in Muay Thai, clinch fighting, and boxing.

"These are a combination of tools they can use on the battlefield," said Sgt. 1st Class Mike Huitema, 109th Regional Support Group combative instructor. "We're not here to teach them how to be fighters, we're here to teach them how to defend themselves."

Given the physically demanding conditions of the training, medical teams from the 730th Area Support Medical Company were in place at the training lanes to quickly respond should a medical emergency arise.

"It's always good to bring the two branches together," said Chief Master Sgt. Patrick Marino, 114th SFS operations superintendent. "We have a lot of similarities but we each bring our own strength to the training."



Multiple Launch Rocket Systems from Battery B, 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, fire rockets during annual training, Aug. 2, at Camp Guernsey, Wyo. (Photo by Senior Airman Duane Duimstra)

1-147TH FIELD ARTILLERY LAUNCHES ROCKETS DURING ANNUAL TRAINING

By Senior Airman Duane Duimstra
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Live-fire operations of the Multiple Launch Rocket System were conducted by the 1st Battalion, 147th Field Artillery, Aug. 2, at Camp Guernsey, Wyoming.

Live-fire operations is only a small part of the 1-147th's annual training which included Battery A from Aberdeen, Battery B from Yankton, and the Forward Support Company from Watertown.

Soldiers focused on proper rocket launching procedures, radio communications when receiving firing missions, loading and reloading procedures, and maneuvering techniques in rough terrain.

The MLRS were being operated and fired by Battery B in a simulated combat situation. Each MLRS section consists of a crew chief, gunner and driver.

A platoon consists of four sections and a battery consists of two platoons.

Before each MLRS is fired, headquarters assigns them a mission, which includes fire direction and the number of ammunition to be fired. The type of mission is dictated by headquarters and can vary from "fire when ready" to "time on target" to "at my command."



U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Chad Carlson a member of the 114th Security Forces Squadron uses a bullhorn to instruct protesters to go home during a civil disturbance training scenario at Camp Rapid, Aug. 5. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)

MILITARY POLICE, SECURITY FORCES TRAIN ON

RIOT CONTROL

By Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann
SDNG Public Affairs Office

Members of the 235th Military Police Company and 114th Security Forces Squadron practiced riot control procedures during their annual training at Camp Rapid, Aug. 4-5.

The Airmen and Soldiers trained on civil disturbance scenarios involving civilian protesters, which quickly escalated into a riot.

"Civil disturbance operations is a part of our state mission," said Capt. John Peary, 235th commander. "This is realistic and relevant training we need as a military police company. I wanted my Soldiers to have the experience

of what it would be like immersed in a riot situation."

The 235th and 114th can be called to help assist civil authorities and local law enforcement in a civil disturbance emergency.

"This is extremely realistic training," said Army Sgt. Andrew Sihrer, 235th MP Co. "It is nice to focus on garrison instead of field operations. It's a lot different working with civilians opposed to enemy combatants. Since we could be called on to support local law enforcement at any given time, we want to be ready for that mission should it come about."

This is the first time the 235th and the 114th have trained to this level of intensity for a civil disturbance.

"We usually go over it every year in a

classroom setting so this was nice to get the interactive training," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Karber, 114th SFS. "I'm impressed with how well we did with only two hours of prep time. This training has given me more confidence and confidence in my team after seeing that we can hold a crowd back."

The Army and Air Guard units conducted scenarios separately using protective gear, shields and non-lethal methods to quickly control the rioting crowd. The interactive training allowed the military police and security forces to identify their strengths and weaknesses.

"It lets us see our strengths, weaknesses and identify key leaders," said Air Force Tech Sgt. Eric Kloster, NCO in charge of 114th base patrol. "We did realize a few things that we can do better so we will orient our training to improve our vulnerabilities"



Members of the 235th Military Police Company practice riot control procedures during a civil disturbance training scenario at Camp, Aug. 4. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)

SD GUARD MEDICAL STRIKE TEAMS TRAIN FOR EMERGENCIES

Story by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 189th Aviation Regiment and the 730th Area Support Medical Company joined with Airmen from the 114th Medical Group to jointly participate in a medical strike team rehearsal scenario at Camp Rapid, July 30.

The units capitalized on an opportunity to make Army and Air Guard members more cohesive by conducting joint training with the Army's HH-60M Black Hawk helicopters. This keeps in line with one of the SDNG adjutant general's priorities which aims to enhance joint cooperation for training and missions.

"Today, we are getting the medical strike team trained up on how to act around a helicopter and rehearse the plan for a real-world scenario," said Army Sgt. Frank Peterson, Co. C, 1-189th flight medic.

Peterson explained that the experience of working hand-in-hand with the Air Guard enhances efficiency and in an event where they would have to be jointly utilized they can better get them to where they need to go.

Upon arrival, the flight crew began familiarizing the medical triage teams with the evacuation process on the Black Hawk's equipment and the procedures of loading and off-loading of patients. The triage teams are made up of a provider, a nurse, a medic, and additional manpower.

"Our mission on the medical side is to be ready to respond at a moment's notice to a natural disaster or a terrorist threat," said Air Force Col. Tim Wilkinson, 114th MDG commander.

"We have been working with the Army National Guard on helicopter response to ensure that in the event our triage team needs to respond they will be ready to go with a backpack full of medical supplies for response."



Medical personnel from both the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard board a HH-60M Black Hawk helicopter at Camp Rapid, July 30, during Medical Strike Team rehearsal training. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Luke Olson)



WARRIOR TASKS INCREASE READINESS

By Senior Master Sgt. Nancy Ausland
114th Fighter Wing Public Affairs

South Dakota Air and Army National Guard members found out first-hand how much alike their duties and responsibilities can be by training side-by-side for their two week annual training at Camp Rapid.

Air Guard members of the 114th Medical Group and 114th Security Forces Squadron joined Army Guard members from the 109th Regional Support Group, 235th Military Police Company and the 730th Area Support Medical Company at Camp Rapid to foster these training relationships.

Not only are the trainees from different backgrounds, but the instructors were a mix of both Army and Air Force as well.

"We have both Army and Air Force working together to train on these 16 lanes of basic skills," said Maj. James Neill, 109th RSG operations officer.

The 16 lanes he referred to included skills such as vehicle search, individual movement techniques with use of paint ball guns, employing hand grenades, casualty evaluation, 9-line submission, IED identification, submitting unexploded ordnance reports, and first-aid techniques, among others.



FAMILY READINESS GROUPS (FRG) AND THEIR ROLE IN RESILIENCE

By Kristin Neuhardt, FRSA contractor

FRGs play an important role in Family & Soldier Resilience. During all stages of life, families can develop their resilience skills. Whether a service member is home or away, resilience can better prepare service and family members for the challenges of daily life. Resilience is the ability to grow and thrive in the face of challenges and bounce back from them. So ask yourself, do you want to be like a tennis ball and bounce back or an egg and crack under adversity?

RESILIENCE TOOLS:

1. Comprehensive Soldier and Family Fitness (CSF2)

CSF2 is a key component of the Army's Ready and Resilient Campaign, and in that role, is the Army program designated to build and maintain ready and resilient Soldiers, Family members and Army Civilians. It is one of the tools that the Army National Guard uses to train service members and their families to develop their resilience skills as well.

2. ARMYFIT

ARMYFIT is a website that provides the latest healthy living news and information from experts and leading health organizations. Find expert-answered health questions on the things that matter most for YOUR health and fitness. They've made it easy for you to find important information that can enhance your physical and psychological health and resilience. Family members registered in the Defense Eligibility Enrollment Reporting System (DEERS) may participate in ARMYFIT by taking the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) 2.0. The GAT 2.0 is an online confidential, self-assessment survey that can help you improve you and your family's overall health and wellbeing. After completion, self-development recommendations, tools and resources are provided for your use.

FRGs across the state (in conjunction with their units) provide families with two resilience classes a year. Check with your FRG to find out when the next resilience class is scheduled at your unit

PLEASE JOIN US AND OTHER FAMILIES AT ONE OF THESE UPCOMING EVENTS:

SEP 19 - Family Resilience Class - Rapid City & Sioux Falls
OCT 10 - Family Resilience Class - Rapid City & Sioux Falls
OCT 16 - Family Movie Night - Rapid City & Sioux Falls
OCT 24 - Annual Trunk or Treat Event in Rapid City

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
605-737-6089 / 737-6310 / 357-2970

PUT RESILIENCE INTO PRACTICE: HUNT THE GOOD STUFF

Write down 1 to 3 positive experiences from the day and write a reflection about why the good thing happened, what the good thing means to you, and what you can do to enable more of the good thing to continue happening.



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Seasonal Thoughts

As the busyness of fall is now upon us, I want to give you a few "seasonal-related" thoughts from a Chaplain's perspective . . .

Labor Day. The first Labor Day celebration was in New York City on Sept. 5, 1882. It was not that uncommon back then for workers to toil 12-14 hours a day, seven days a week. Children were often forced to work long hours and weeks themselves. In the military, we are often called on to work long hours and we understand that emergencies never take a holiday. But it is good to remind ourselves that there comes a time we need to take a break or we will break. Honor your loved ones and family Labor Day 2015 and take a break from your busy work to enjoy the fruits of your labor. I also want to use this "Chaplain's Corner" to say thanks to the greatest work force on earth: the members of the South Dakota Army and Air National Guard! You are, as Governor Rounds used to say, not just the best, but the best of the best! And we chaplains are so grateful for all of you and your families!

Patriot Day. 2015 marks the 14th Anniversary of Sept. 11, 2001, when war was brought home to America. Hijackers took planes and flew them into the

Twin Towers, the Pentagon and a lonely field in Pennsylvania; their only wish - to kill as many people as they could. America stood strong that day and has so ever since; deploying thousands of both Air and Army Guard to diverse parts of the world. The 114th Fighter Wing, Detachment 48 and the 155th Engineer Company are all deployed, serving their nation far from home. These brave men and women deserve our prayers and our respect. And we need to keep their family members in our prayers as well. As difficult as my deployment to Iraq was, I came to believe it is even more difficult for those who stay at home, worrying and wondering about when their loved ones will come back. All of these units and their families have not only the SDNG Chaplain Corps prayers, but the SDNG Chaplain Corps 'cares' - our love and support. As a full-time support chaplain, I'll take your concerns and calls whenever you have them (605.737.6009/605.431.5182 or lynn.j.wilson.mil@mail.mil).

Columbus Day/Native American Day. Lastly, a few thoughts about

Columbus Day and, what we celebrate out here in the Black Hills, Native American Day. In 1492, Columbus set sail with three small ships and ended up changing world history. A new continent was opened to European exploration and settlement. But it is only right to mention that the Native Americans were actually here first and their contribution to our great country should never be forgotten. The 2015 Food Drive allowed us the opportunity to give some of the food collected to many different parts of our state, including the Rosebud Soup Kitchen and the Rosebud Homeless Shelter. I was so impressed by the great people I met on the Rosebud Reservation and was reminded again of how much we owe our Native American brothers and sisters for making this land so great!

I have no doubts your fall will be busy. But may you find some time to rest from your labors, to remember all our brave Soldiers and Airmen who are defending our freedom far from home and to remember that the diversity of our land is part of what makes America the greatest nation on earth!

GOD BLESS.

Respectfully,

Lt. Col. Lynn Wilson
Full-time Support Chaplain

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SNAP



The 153rd Engineer Battalion hosted The Warrior Challenge in Pierre, June 6. The event, comprised of six different stations from units within the battalion, providing opportunities for future Soldiers to learn about the SDARNG and the 153rd by interacting with current Soldiers. (Photo by Sgt. Alex Kalsbeck)



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Kevin Griese, assistant adjutant general of the South Dakota Army National Guard, administers the Oath of Office to eight newly commissioned second lieutenants during the Officer Candidate School commissioning ceremony at Mount Rushmore National Park Aug. 15. (Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Theanne Herrmann)



The Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce recognized five South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers, along with five Airmen from Ellsworth Air Force Base, at their 29th Annual Rapid City Chamber Military Appreciation Pig Roast, held at The Golf Club at Red Rock in Rapid City, July 22. Pictured from left to right are: Sgt. John Butt, 842nd Engineer Company; Staff Sgt. Daniel Kivi, 235th Military Police Company; 1st Lt. Terry Berndt, 1742nd Transportation Company; Staff Sgt. David Goodwin, Joint Force Headquarters, and Capt. Dean Suellflow, Co. C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment. (Photo by Senior Airman Hailey Staker)

SHOTS



Spc. Marcus Howard, a medic with the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, talks with his civilian employer, Megan Merkel, resource nurse for Prairie Lakes Hospital in Watertown, during an Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve Bosslift at a field training exercise at Camp Ripley, Minn., July 16. The ESGR visit allows civilian employers to experience the military life lead by their Soldier-employees. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Beck)



Sgt. Michael Robinson, with the SDARNG's 740th Transportation Company, loads equipment during annual training at Camp Ripley, Minn., June 22.



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